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these pestiferous plants. This collection will be made up from scores of reports of American botanists upon the twenty worst weeds in their locality, and therefore will be representative of the various regions of the United States. In the future it is expected to supplement this collection with one of the seeds of the same species, and continue the work until the weeds of America are fully represented in the economic and other herbaria of the country. While more particularly designed for the agricultural colleges and experiment stations, this collection of injurious plants cannot but be of interest to the general systematic botanist. The price is not yet fixed upon, but will not be far from eight dollars for the first century. Dr. Halsted desires that all who are interested will send their word of encouragement to him. The work is a vast one and entirely one of love for the cause of a better understanding of our weeds by the one who is engaged in the enterprise, namely, Byron D. Halsted, New Brunswick, N. J.

Reviews of Foreign Literature.

Introduction to Fresh-water Algæ, with an Enumeration of all the British Species. M. C. Cooke. (8vo. pp. 334; 13 plates, London, 1890. International Scientific Series).

This is a convenient little laboratory book, giving illustrations of all the genera of fresh-water Algæ known in Britain, and as these are nearly all common to North America it will be found a useful adjunct to Mr. Wolle's publications in this country. The subject is treated in a popular, rather than a strictly scientific manner. Directions are given for the collection and preservation of the plants, their methods of growth and reproduction are described and their phenomena of spontaneous movement commented upon.

Dr. Cooke does not take much stock in the recent classification of Algæ proposed in Bennett and Murray's "Cryptogamic Botany," nor in what he is pleased to call the "dual hypothesis" of the nature of lichens, both of which are denounced in no uncertain language. This and other considerations have induced a scathing review of the book by Mr. Geo. Murray in the "Journal of Botany," for August, in which such useful phrases for

reviewers with a bias are employed that we reproduce some of them here :

"The author of this book," says Mr. Murray, "deserves the highest credit for his good intentions. * * * The plan of the book and the idea of producing it are most creditable to Mr. Cooke, but he should have induced someone else to carry the matter into effect. * * * Over the ground covered by the list of subjects there is, indeed, wanted a good, trustworthy, popular guide. Mr. Cooke would have been the better for such a guide."

In defense of his work, Dr. Cooke contents himself with reprinting Mr. Murray's review in "Grevillea," and pointing out the fact that Mr. Murray is an officer of the Botanical Department of the British Museum, while he, himself, is similarly attached to Kew. N. L. B.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Abies grandis. A. D. Webster. (Garden, xxxviii. 291, illustrated).

Acrostichum Yatesii, Sodiro. R. P. Luis Sodiro. (Anales Univ. Quito. iv. No. 29).

A new fern, related as *A. succisæfolia*, Thouars, discovered on Mt. Pinchincha, Ecuador, and dedicated to Dr. Lorenzo G. Yates.

Asclepias tuberosa. (Vick's Mag. xiii. 309, 310, illustrated).

Asplenium blepharodes, a new Fern from Lower California. D. C. Eaton. (Zoe, i. 197. Plate VII).

A species allied to *A. parvulum* collected by Mr. Brandegee at Sierra de Laguna in January, 1889, differing from that species in its stouter habit, and especially in its beautifully ciliate indurium, that of *A. parvulum* and other allied species being nearly or quite entire.

Azolla Caroliniana. (Proc. Nat. Sci. Assn. S. I., Oct. 9th, 1890.

At the meeting held on the above date, Mr. Thomas Craig showed specimens collected near Clove Lake, Staten Island, where it had been introduced by Mr. Samuel Henshaw in 1885. The plant is evidently thoroughly established in its northern home.